

# FOSSIES SUCCEEDS MACHEN

## Government's Most Noted Postoffice Prober to Act as Superintendent of Free Delivery.

### MR. PAYNE'S STATEMENT

#### AUGUST W. MACHEN "GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE."

#### Many Charges Filed Against Him, Several Having Been Made by Indians.

### WORK OF J. L. BRISTOW

#### WHO IS CONDUCTING THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT INQUIRY.

#### Investigation Courted by Mr. Machen—Reorganization of the Divisions Probable.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—One of the most significant developments incident to the investigation in the Postoffice Department took place to-day when August W. Machen was granted an indefinite leave of absence from his position as superintendent of the free delivery service. The explanation of this action by the postmaster general is that Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow desired to be placed in full control of the administrative business of the free delivery division.

Technically, it is true, Mr. Machen has been granted leave of absence until the investigation is concluded, but among those familiar with conditions in the department it appears to be the universal belief that Mr. Machen will hardly be reinstated, whatever develops in the future. Three of the most important divisions of the Postoffice Department, therefore, give promise of being thoroughly reorganized. George W. Beavers, who was superintendent of the division of salaries and allowances, resigned shortly after the present inquiry was instituted by the postmaster general. James N. Tyner, the assistant attorney general, who was in charge of the fraud order division, was dismissed after Mrs. Tyner had filed a suit in his office containing personal and public records.

Mr. Machen now has been relieved of duty on the recommendation of General Bristow, who is conducting the investigation. There has been much criticism heard recently that Mr. Machen was allowed to conduct the business of his division while it was undergoing investigation, but until yesterday the fourth assistant had made no suggestion that Mr. Machen should be relieved pending the present inquiry. Postmaster General Payne acted with characteristic promptness when he relieved Mr. Machen immediately upon the request of General Bristow.

#### DUE TO RECRIMINATION.

While there have been numerous charges and allegations against the administration of Mr. Machen, thus far no evidence of criminal wrongdoing on his part has been developed, according to all the reports heard at the department. Mr. Payne was questioned on this point after announcing Mr. Machen's leave of absence, and he stated that no assumption of criminal wrongdoing should be attached to the action taken to-day. He stated that summary removal, rather than an indefinite leave of absence, would have been ordered if Mr. Machen had been found guilty of the charges preferred against him.

There is no doubt in the minds of those who have impartially observed the developments in the Postoffice Department during the past few months that the present condition of affairs is due in large part to the intense bitterness between First Assistant Postmaster General Wynne and Superintendent Machen. This feeling has augmented the spirit of recrimination which has existed in the department for several weeks. This explains another feature of the case which Mr. Payne refers to in his letter to Mr. Machen. The free delivery service has been a constituent division of the first assistant's office. It is now transferred to the authority of the fourth assistant, where it is understood it will remain permanently. This possibly means a reclassification of the duties of the four assistants such as was contemplated by Postmaster General Payne some time ago.

Mr. C. Fossies, the postoffice inspector, who will succeed Mr. Machen to-morrow in charge of the free delivery division, is the official who superseded Major Estes G. Rathbone when the Cuban postal frauds were disclosed. He will not remain permanently at the head of the division. The appointment of a permanent superintendent of free delivery in case Mr. Machen is removed or resigns will be made at the time that new heads of the salaries and allowances and fraud order divisions are named.

#### CHARGES AGAINST MACHEN.

The fight against Superintendent Machen during the past few months has been probably the most bitter that has ever waged against a man in public place. The question is naturally asked whether it is inspired solely in the interests of clean government. Among the charges and allegations which have been brought against Mr. Machen since the investigation began are as follows: Advance information furnished to a certain manufacturer of mail delivery wagons in Indiana, by which this concern could approach new appointments in the free delivery service and induce them to purchase their wagons from it; frequent changes in the form of mail boxes, by which contracts were awarded to Mr. Machen's friends; a contract let to a firm to paint mail boxes at an excessive figure; building up a political machine in Congress

and outside, and virtually ignoring orders and directions from the first assistant postmaster general; borrowing money from postal employees; granting authority to women employed in his division to use his signature and virtually to conduct the business of the division; that he received \$300 from a woman who wanted a government appointment; going to the head of his superior officers to get an increase in salary; being an officer in a Mexican mining company and soliciting postal employees to purchase its stock. It has been reported also that since the investigation Mr. Machen has removed papers from his office in the department. During all this bitter campaign against him Mr. Machen has stood by his guns, and in his letter to the postmaster general to-day he states that he courts the fullest investigation of his official conduct, and stands ready at any time to aid in the investigation now in progress. He asserts: "I am conscious of having done no wrong."

The action of the postmaster general in amending the regulations as to permit the transfer of the free delivery bureau to the fourth assistant is significant. In the plan of organization considered by Mr. Payne some months ago such a step was contemplated. It was suggested then that Mr. Bristow should take charge of rural free delivery, and that appointments of postmasters should be transferred to the first assistant. What changes will be made in the reorganization of the department now contemplated Postmaster General Payne will be unable to indicate until the present investigation is completed. Mr. Bristow, it is understood, hopes to complete the investigation of the department so that he may be able to present his report to the postmaster general and the President next month.

JOHN E. MONK.

#### OFFICIAL ACTION.

#### Bristow's Recommendation, Mr. Payne's Order and Machen's Reply.

Associated Press Dispatch. WASHINGTON, May 8.—The investigation of the affairs of the Postoffice Department, which has been dragging along for two months, took a startling turn late this afternoon, when, by order of Postmaster General Payne, August W. Machen, general superintendent of the free delivery system and one of the most widely-known government officials in the United States, was relieved from duty, and Postoffice Inspector M. C. Fossies was designated to take charge of that service.

The change will take effect to-morrow morning. What changes will be made in the reorganization of the department now contemplated Postmaster General Payne will be unable to indicate until the present investigation is completed. Mr. Bristow, it is understood, hopes to complete the investigation of the department so that he may be able to present his report to the postmaster general and the President next month.

The action of the postmaster general was taken without warning. Mr. Machen was relieved of duty on the recommendation of General Bristow, who is directing the investigation of the affairs of the department. The transfer of Mr. Machen's bureau to his jurisdiction and its administration by a postoffice inspector would expedite the investigation.

Before a large number of newspaper men Postmaster General Payne announced that Mr. Machen was relieved of duty. He stated that the investigation of the affairs of the department was being conducted by General Bristow, and that he was authorized to assign a postoffice inspector to take charge of the free delivery service. He stated that the investigation of the affairs of the department was being conducted by General Bristow, and that he was authorized to assign a postoffice inspector to take charge of the free delivery service.

The letter of the postmaster general to Mr. Machen was as follows: "I am in receipt of a request from General Bristow, fourth assistant postmaster general, that the division of free delivery be temporarily assigned to his bureau and that he be authorized to assign a postoffice inspector to take charge of the free delivery service. I have issued the following orders, to take effect at the commencement of business to-morrow morning: 'The division of free delivery heretofore under the general supervision of the first assistant postmaster general is hereby transferred and assigned to the fourth assistant postmaster general and the regulations of the department are amended in conformity therewith.'"

"You are hereby granted leave of absence until the investigation is concluded and will turn over the division of free delivery to the control of M. C. Fossies, postoffice inspector, who has been designated as the acting general superintendent of the free delivery system."

Following was Mr. Machen's reply: "I am in receipt of your letter of this date advising me of your order, to take effect to-morrow morning, transferring the division of free delivery from the supervision of the first assistant postmaster general to the fourth assistant postmaster general. I also note that I have been granted leave of absence until the investigation is concluded. I am in receipt of your letter of this date advising me of your order, to take effect to-morrow morning, transferring the division of free delivery from the supervision of the first assistant postmaster general to the fourth assistant postmaster general. I also note that I have been granted leave of absence until the investigation is concluded."

Mr. Machen came here from Toledo, O., in 1893 and qualified as superintendent of the free delivery service. He was born in 1851, and his home is Des Moines, Ia. He was once a special examiner of the Pension Bureau, and subsequently served as postoffice inspector at Philadelphia, Chicago, Helena, Mont., and St. Paul. He is still postoffice inspector in charge of the free delivery service in the city of St. Paul, Minn. He is best known in connection with his investigation of the Cuban postal frauds, and his appointment as director general of posts of Cuba, assuming that office on June 2, 1902.

# RUSSIA MAY STAY

## WARLIKE PREPARATIONS IN THE NORTH PORTION OF CHINA.

### Evidence that the Czar's Troops Do Not Intend to Leave Manchuria in the Near Future.

### NEW CHWANG AGAIN OCCUPIED

#### STRONG GARRISONS POSTED AT THE MOUTH OF THE LIAO RIVER.

#### Fortifications Being Constructed at Liaoyung to Command the Road Between There and Yalu River.

### PORTION OF KOREA INVADED

### RUSSIA'S LATEST COUP VIEWED WITH SURPRISE AT PEKING.

#### Vigorous Action by the United States and Other Nations Probable—Protest from Japan.

#### Tennessee Case to Be Probed.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—The Postoffice Department to-day sent to Inspector General of the rural free delivery service at Nashville, written instructions to investigate the case of the rural free mail carrier held in custody in the Auburn, Tenn., postoffice. The instructions were sent to-day that Mr. Machen had been relieved of duty.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5, COL. 4.)

# BOTH BANKS INSOLVENT

## AUBURN AND WATERLOO FINANCIAL HOUSES IN BAD SHAPE.

### Their Resources Used Without Security to Finance Lending Ventures—Depositors Will Suffer Heavily.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 8.—The voluntary liquidation of the McClellan Bank, at Auburn, and its Waterloo branch, known as the De Kalb Bank, turns out to be the precursor of discoveries showing the banks to be disastrously insolvent. When J. D. Leighty was appointed receiver on Monday for the purpose of settling up the affairs of the banks and the McClellan estate, it was announced that the assets would amount to \$40,000 above the debts of the banks. There had been no question of the banks' solvency in the minds of their numerous depositors, and nothing occurred to cause a run, but owing to the advanced years of the widow of the former president, Judge C. C. McClellan, who served two terms in Congress from this district, no suspicion was excited by the voluntary liquidation.

Mr. Leighty, however, has discovered that the assets include paper signed by members of the McClellan family, without security, amounting to from \$70,000 to \$80,000. This money was used in promoting business enterprises in the number of which the McClellan family was a partner. The assets at Auburn and at Detroit, which have not in all cases been prosperous. The Alverton branch of the banks since they were the prosperous property of the president. In his life the Auburn bank was a national bank, but five years ago it was changed to a partnership affair. It has done a fairly good business, but the assets stand the drain on its resources in financing other and losing business deals. Mrs. McClellan has turned over all her property to the receiver.

#### ROOSEVELT HEIRS WIN.

#### President Among Those Who Are Awarded \$42,425.

CHICAGO, May 8.—Roosevelt heirs, who include the President and William E. James C. Jr., his cousins, were awarded a verdict for \$42,425 to-day in the condemnation suit brought by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company involving a strip of land 400 feet long in Stewart avenue. The decision marks the close of litigation which has been waged for fifteen years for possession of the property, on which a section of the railroad's main track is laid.

The Roosevelt heirs own the abutting property facing the tracks in Stewart avenue, and when the thoroughfare was vacated by the railroad, the heirs claimed the right of the Pennsylvania right of way the heirs refused to sanction the proceeding and brought suit to the Supreme Court, where a decision ousting the railroad company and ordering that the property be returned to the heirs was rendered. Condemnation proceedings then followed.

#### VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIANS.

#### It Assures Adoption of the Revised Confession of Faith.

PHILADELPHIA, May 8.—The Rev. William H. Burdette, secretary of the Presbyterian General Assembly, has received returns from 203 of the 272 presbyteries on the question of creed revision. Eleven overtures were sent to the presbyteries by the last General Assembly. Of the returns received 185 are in favor of the overtures, 13 are in opposition, and three took no action. This vote ratifies the action of the presbyteries and practically assures the adoption of the revised Confession of Faith by the General Assembly, which meets in Los Angeles this month.

#### TIED BRIDE TO TABLE.

#### Practical Joke Nearly Caused a Riot at a Hasleton Wedding.

HASLETON, Pa., May 7.—The wedding of Antonio Deluca and Mary Basti here to-day was followed by a reception at the home of the bride. While partaking of the wedding dinner a brother of the bridegroom tied the bride's ankle to the leg of the table. When she attempted to arise she was upset the table, and instantly there was an uproar among the guests, knives being drawn and revolvers flourished. Great excitement prevailed, but no one was badly hurt.

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